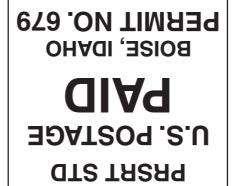
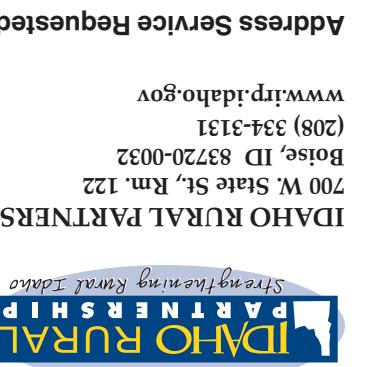




Upcoming Events

Please notify us if you have an upcoming event you would like listed and we'll include it on a space available basis. A complete calendar is available at www.irp.idaho.gov including an event submission form.

- March 15-17** NRD Consultation, Washington, DC
- March 16** Senate Ag Committee Field Hearing on Rural Development, Cascade
- March 17** IDOC Regional Rural Partners Forum, Dworshak State Park, Orofino (*see details inside*)
- March 30** IRP Leadership & Education/Workforce Development Joint Committee Meeting
- April 6** IRP Economic Development Committee Meeting
- April 8-9** Northwest Regional Summit on Youth, Lewiston (*see details inside*)
- April 16** IRP Environment Committee Meeting
- April 22-23** Governor's Economic Advisory Council
- May 5-7** Idaho Travel Council and Governor's Tourism Conference, Twin Falls
- May 20** IRP BOARD MEETING, Cascade, All day
- August 4** IRP BOARD MEETING, Albion, All day



IDAHO RURAL PARTNERSHIP News

Strengthening Rural Idaho

REGIONAL CONFERENCES HIGHLIGHT PUBLIC ART

When is a Public Utility Access Cover more than just a manhole cover? How can chain link fences, tree grates, and park benches become attractive assets for your community? Answer: involve an artist and make them into public artworks! Public art will be the keynote topic at arts conferences in six Idaho locations this May and June. Presented by the Idaho Commission on the Arts, Arts Northwest, and Idaho Department of Commerce, these one-day conferences will feature a keynote luncheon with Jack Mackie, public

artist and vice-chair of the Seattle Design Commission.

Mackie will examine public art as a civic work frame that places artists into community planning and construction decision making processes. Idaho's Regional Conferences on the Arts will also feature workshops for arts organizations on nonprofit boards, cultural tourism marketing, and audience development. Individual artists will be offered workshops on how to work with schools, portfolio development and funding opportunities, and how artists can work on public art projects.



Registration is \$15 to attend the keynote luncheon only (lunch included) or \$25 for the full day (8:30 am to 5 pm - workshops and luncheon). To register, send your name, address, phone, email and \$15 or \$25 to the local host at the location you would like to attend. Dates, locations, and local hosts are listed below. For more information contact Delta Smith, Community Development Director, Idaho Commission on the Arts at 1-800-ART-FUND or (208) 334-2119 or dsmith@ica.state.id.us.

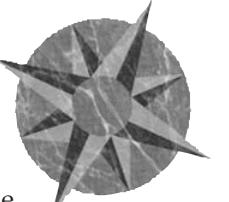
- **May 19** – Moscow – Moscow Arts Commission, PO Box 9203, Moscow, ID 83843
- **May 21** – Sandpoint – Pend Oreille Arts Council, PO Box 1694, Sandpoint, ID 83864
- **June 7** – Twin Falls – Magic Valley Arts Council, PO Box 1158, Twin Falls, ID 83303
- **June 9** – Hailey – Wood River Arts Alliance, PO Box 4030, Ketchum, ID 83340
- **June 11** – McCall – McCall Arts & Humanities Council, PO Box 1391, McCall, ID 83638
- **June 23** – Idaho Falls – Idaho Falls Arts Council, 498 A Street, Idaho Falls, ID 83402

RURAL DEVELOPMENT FIELD HEARING

Sen. Mike Crapo will be holding a field hearing of the Senate Agriculture Committee on rural development issues. The hearing is scheduled for **March 16** in Cascade. IRP thanks Sen. Crapo for his efforts to draw attention to rural Idaho issues and encourages people to participate. For information and final details contact Bob Ford at 208/334-1776 or bob_ford@rapo.senate.gov.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL SUMMIT ON YOUTH

This event sponsored by the Lewis-Clark Coalition for Families and Youth, will be held in Lewiston, Idaho on **April 8 and 9** from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm with a third day to be held in interested individual communities. This conference will allow participants the opportunity to learn about critical prevention issues on both a national and local scale and then take action in their communities. Those who participate in the conference will be better informed about best practices and be able to use this strategy to develop and follow-through with strategic plans for their communities. Additionally, there will be increased involvement by teens in planning and implementing best practice strategies in their communities. Organizations will have an opportunity to highlight their efforts by entering a display in the two-day resource fair. Registration for the Northwest Regional Summit on Youth is \$50. Scholarships are available. For additional conference and registration information please visit www.communitycollaboration.net/nwrsy.htm or contact the Department of Health and Welfare Region 2 Director's Office at 208/799-4338 or behlerk@idhw.state.id.us.





FOCUS... featuring Idaho success stories and partner agency activities.

TRANSIT NEEDS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Thousands of Idahoans are not able to drive and thus rely on family, friends, or neighbors to provide transportation to work, school, medical appointments, senior centers, shopping and training opportunities. Public transportation services in your community could help meet these needs in your community. Transportation options also help stimulate economic development.

The Idaho Transportation Department receives funding from the Federal Transit Administration to provide transit services in the rural areas of Idaho. Grant funds are passed through to local governments and nonprofit transit operators to provide access for local citizens. With increases in federal funding the past several years, the Division of Public Transportation is seeking communities with an interest in developing transit services including bus service or vanpooling/ carpooling projects.

Funds are also available to local governments or non-profit agencies to purchase vehicles to provide

transportation to the elderly and persons with disabilities. Many Idaho communities have helped local senior centers with matching funds to purchase a lift-equipped bus or van to provide transportation to seniors or persons with disabilities.

If your community is interested in expanding transportation options, please contact the Division at 1-800-527-7985. Applications will be available in June 2004 with an application deadline in September. We encourage you to call as soon as possible to work with division staff on ideas and funding opportunities for transit options in your community.



Information Forums

SMALL BUSINESS INFORMATION FORUM

This one day forum provides important and valuable information that can help the attendee handle starting a new business. Several government agencies, both federal and state, will be attending to answer questions such as: What responsibilities come with having employees- When to pay sales tax - How to avoid penalties- Which forms to file and when and where to file the forms- How to get SBA assistance. The cost is only \$10 and pre-registration is required. The 2004 sessions are scheduled for **May 6, September 9 and November 18** in Boise at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. To register or for more information, visit <http://www2.state.id.us/iic/register.htm>, or phone Lola Barnett at (208) 334-6032.

IDOC RURAL FORUMS

You are cordially invited to join the Idaho Department of Commerce (IDOC), Gem Teams, and other rural development partners for the second annual regional Rural Development Partner Forums. These day long meetings will cover a variety of topics including a "sharing forum" where by the participating communities share their concerns, challenges, and successes. Each session will begin at 8:30 am and finish by 4:30 pm. The dates and locations of the remaining workshops are March 17 -Dworshak State Park, Orofino; April 7 - Senior Center, Rathdrum; April 29 -Iona Community Center; and May 12 -Enders Hotel, Soda Springs. For a detailed agenda and registration form go to <http://www.idoc.state.id.us/idcomm/comdev/technical.html>. Please note that a \$10 pre-registration check must be sent to IDOC at least one week prior to the session you would like to attend.

IRP BOARD MEMBERS

STEVE ALLRED — Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
KENT BAILEY — Idaho State Senate, Hayden
PAT BARCLAY — Idaho Council of Industry & Environment
K. LYNN BENNETT — U.S. Bureau of Land Management
NANCY BERGMANN — Bechtel BWXT - INEEL
SKIP BRANDT — Idaho State Senate, Kooskia
TRENT CLARK — Monsanto, Soda Springs
DAVE EKERN — Idaho Department of Transportation
MIKE FIELD — U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development
WAYNE HAMMON — U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency
KEN HARWARD — Association of Idaho Cities
JOE HERRING — Region IV Development Association
CONNIE HOGLAND — U.S. Housing & Urban Development
DOUGLAS JONES — Idaho House of Representatives, Filer
KAY KIDDER — Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai
CLAY LARKIN — Mayor, Post Falls
ROGER MADSEN — Idaho Department of Labor
LORRAINE ROACH — The Hingston Roach Group, Grangeville
KATHY RUFFALO — Office Of The Governor
DEVAUGHN SHIPLEY — Idaho Association of Counties, Blackfoot
HARTY & MARJORIE SCHMAEHL — Hearthstone Bakery/Tea House, Kamiah
MARY LOU SHEPHERD — Idaho House of Representatives, Wallace
DICK SMITH — U.S. Forest Service
PATRICK TAKASUGI — Idaho Department of Agriculture
ASHLEY & KATRIN THOMPSON — The Ashley Inn, Cascade
RICK TREMBLAY — Economic Development Administration
JOSE VALDEZ — Casa Valdez, Caldwell
JIM WERTNZ — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
DAVID ZWERNEMAN — Resource Conservation & Development Organizations

News Briefs.....

HOMELAND SECURITY IN RURAL AREAS

The Rural Information Center (RIC) has prepared a Rural Homeland Security Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) located at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/faqs/homelandfaq.htm>. The FAQ focuses on planning, funding, and training resources for local governments. It also links to three other RIC resource pages with additional information for first responders in Emergency Management Services, Fire Departments and Law Enforcement.

BEST PRACTICES FOR SMALL COMMUNITIES

In spring 2003, the National Center for Small Communities (NCSC) launched the Grassroots Rural Entrepreneurship Award, to honor elected officials of small communities (under 10,000 in population) who have been exemplary leaders in crafting effective entrepreneurial development strategies. By recognizing these communities, NCSC hopes not only to publicize some excellent work, but to also spread the word about how other towns can get started on their own efforts to nurture homegrown ventures. Lessons learned through the GREA program are now showcased in Grassroots Rural Entrepreneurship: best practices for small communities and entrepreneurial development. You can view and print this free booklet at the NCSC website, www.smallcommunities.org.

INFO ABOUT RURAL IDAHO AVAILABLE

Rural Idaho at a Glance provides an overview of economic and demographic changes in Idaho since 1990. The intended audience for this color brochure includes elected representatives; state, local and nonprofit agency staff, and business people who serve rural markets. Copies cost \$2 each plus \$1.65 for tax, postage and handling. Order from UI Ag Publications, P.O. Box 442240, Moscow, ID 83844-2240; phone 208/885-7982; fax 208/885-4648.

SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES ON LINE

There is a free internet based resource center to assist small business creation and entrepreneurial development across the country. The site was funded by the USDA through a SBIR grant and has been in development for 3 years. It recently expanded to include information about counseling and training opportunities in every state including Idaho. This includes agencies and non-profits who offer free or low cost assistance to small business - SBA, USDA, DOL, Small Business Development Centers and some micro-lenders and development authorities. Details at www.ItsSimple.biz.

SALMON COMMUNITY REVIEW

The next Idaho Community Review has been scheduled for Salmon on May 12 – 13. Salmon has decided to focus on Civic Life (emphasis on seniors and youth), Community Design and Identity (emphasis on land use planning, cultural heritage tourism, and beautification) and Economic Development (emphasis on infrastructure and airport expansion). We are actively seeking visiting team members with expertise in one of these areas and the willingness to commit to 2.5 days in Salmon plus travel and a pre-review orientation. If you are interested in serving on the Salmon visiting team, please contact Michael Shaw, mshaw@idahocities.org or at (208) 344-8594, or contact Deb Krum, dkrum@mtnstatesgroup.org or at (208) 336-5533.

OTHER COMMUNITY REVIEWS?

If you are interested in having a review completed in your community you can find program details and an application at www.idahocities.org under *Idaho Community Review*. The next available review will be in the first quarter of 2005. To be considered, submit a complete application package no later than July 1, 2004. For additional details contact Michael Shaw, mshaw@idahocities.org, or at (208) 344-8594.